

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01
/152 W

-----025442 051153Z /53

R 051028Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8285
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2028

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIA'S TRANSPORT SITUATION

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 1958; B) ADDIS ABABA 6332; C. 1977
ADDIS ABABA 5755

1. WELL INFORMED ETHIOPIAN SOURCE HAS GIVEN FOLLOWING RUNDOWN
ON COMMERCIAL ROAD TRANSPORT SITUATION. THERE ARE PRESENTLY
IN COUNTRY SOME 3000 HEAVY DUTY (HD) TRUCKS (10-12 TONS)
WITH TRAILERS (12 TONS), PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 1300 HD TRUCKS
WITHOUT TRAILERS. ALSO IN COUNTRY ARE APPROXIMATELY 494 TANK
TRUCKS (12,000 LITER) WITH TRAILERS (14,000 LITER), PLUS
AN ADDITIONAL 60 TANK TRUCKS (12,000 LITER) WITHOUT TRAILERS.
THE SMALL TRUCK FLEET CONSISTS OF 1500-2000 VEHICLES.

2. PMGSE HD TRUCK AND TRAILER PURCHASES SINCE OCTOBER 1977
(SEE REFTEL C) INCLUDE 400 FROM FIAT, 20 FROM VOLVO, 10 FROM
SKODA, AND 58 FROM THE LOCAL FIAT ASSEMBLY PLANT. IN ADDI-
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TION, SOME 42 HD TRUCKS AND TRAILERS TURNED OUT BY THE LOCAL
FIAT ASSEMBLY PLANT HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY PRIVATE OWNERS.
DELIVERY HAS BEEN MADE ON ALL BUT 200 OF THE FIAT TRUCK/
TRAILERS PURCHASED FROM ITALY. OF THE PURCHASES FROM ABROAD,
ONLY THE VOLVOS WERE PAID FOR IN CASH. THE FIAT PURCHASE WAS
ON TERMS OF 7 PERCENT, FINANCED BY FIAT. (ITALIAN EMBOFF
CLAIMS 450 UNITS WERE PURCHASED ON TERMS OF 6-1/2 PERCENT,

FINANCED BY FIAT UNDER PRESSURE FROM GOI.)

3. SINCE OCTOBER 1977 THE PMGSE HAS PURCHASED 70 TANK TRUCK/TRAILERS FROM FIAT, 30 FROM MERCEDES BENZ, AND 20 FROM KENYA (MAKE UNKNOWN). IN ADDITION, SOME 40 TANK TRUCKS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED LOCALLY.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE 200 HD TRUCK/TRAILERS YET TO BE DELIVERED FROM FIAT, THERE ARE 88 VOLVO TRUCK/TRAILERS (PURCHASED UNDER THE UNDP EMERGENCY TRUCK TRUST FUND AGREEMENT) SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY BEGINNING IN JULY.

5. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, SIZE OF TRUCK TRANSPORT FLEET IS, OR SOON WILL BE, SUFFICIENT TO MEET DOMESTIC DEMANDS. RECENT FUEL CRISIS (SEE REFTEL A) AND FOOD SHORTAGES IN ADDIS ABABA HAVE BEEN DUE MAINLY TO POOR COORDINATION WITHIN PMGSE AND TO FARMER RESISTANCE TO SELLING THEIR PRODUCE AND GRAIN FOR PAPER MONEY THEY FIND USELESS, THE SHOPS BEING VIRTUALLY EMPTY OF CONSUMER GOODS FOR THEM TO BUY.

6. THE RESTORATION OF FULL RAILROAD SERVICE BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA AND DJIBOUTI SHOULD CONSIDERABLY ALLEVIATE DEMANDS ON THE TRUCK FLEET. SOURCE EXPECTS THIS COULD HAPPEN AS EARLY AS JULY 1978. DESPITE THE INITIAL SNAFU IN INTEGRATING INTO THE ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM THAT PORTION OF THE RAILROAD OPERATING BETWEEN AWASH AND ADDIS, THE KINKS NOW SEEM TO BE WORKED
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OUT AND THE GAS/OIL SHORTAGE (SEE REFTEL A) WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING RESOLVED.

7. COMMENT: AS SOURCE HAS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM, HIS RATHER OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE SYSTEM'S DEVELOPING CAPABILITY CAN BE CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT BIASED. WHILE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, ETHIOPIA IS FAR FROM HAVING AN ADEQUATE OR EFFICIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM, HIS FIGURES ON TRUCK NUMBERS ARE PROBABLY ACCURATE.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, GROUND VEHICLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780192-0180
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780591/aaaaczie.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51e4cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 1958, 78 ADDIS ABABA 6332
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2786656
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIA'S TRANSPORT SITUATION
TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51e4cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014